



Catherine B. Templeton, Director

*Promoting and protecting the health of the public and the environment*

September 7, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This fall, South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is working with the VaxCare Corporation and your School District to provide influenza (flu) vaccine at your child's school. Both types of flu vaccine, the nasal mist and the shot, will be available. Both are approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as safe. Vaccination is the best way to prevent the flu, and to keep your child healthy and in school this flu season. Please visit the DHEC website [http://www.scdhec.gov/health/region5/school\\_flu.htm](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/region5/school_flu.htm) for more information about the flu, flu vaccine Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) and the date for your child's school vaccination clinic.

Through the Federal Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, if your child is covered by Medicaid or does not have any health insurance, he/she is eligible to receive the flu vaccine at no cost to you. If your child has private health insurance, VaxCare will bill your insurance. If your insurance company does not pay, you will receive a bill from VaxCare (\$25.00 for the shot or \$30.00 for the nasal mist). Any questions about insurance coverage, please contact your health insurance company or refer to [http://www.scdhec.gov/health/region5/school\\_flu.htm](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/region5/school_flu.htm).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) strongly recommends that everyone 6 months of age and older get the flu vaccine. We hope that offering the vaccine at school will make it easier for you to get your child vaccinated.

**If you would like to have your child vaccinated at school**, please do the following:

1. Read the Vaccine Information Statements about the influenza (flu) vaccine. These may be found at [http://www.scdhec.gov/health/region5/school\\_flu.htm](http://www.scdhec.gov/health/region5/school_flu.htm) or you can request a paper copy from the nurse's office at your child's school.
2. Fill out the front and back of the Parent/Guardian Consent Form. The health questions on the form will help us decide if your child should get the nasal mist or the shot.
3. Return the Consent Form to the school within five (5) days of receiving this letter. **We must have the completed Consent Form in order to vaccinate your child.**

**If you do not want your child to receive the flu vaccine at school, do not fill out the consent form.**

If your child gets the flu vaccine at school, we will send a note home with your child for your records. Children less than 9 years old who have not received at least 2 doses of flu vaccine since July 2010 will need a second dose about 4 weeks after the first dose. DHEC and VaxCare will have a second clinic at your child's school for this purpose.

If you have questions, please call Jodie Miller, RN, at 803-533-7271 or email at [millerjm@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:millerjm@dhec.sc.gov). Your child's healthcare provider may also be able to answer your questions, and vaccinate your child in the event you do not want to participate in the school flu vaccine program.

**IMPORTANT: After returning the consent, you must contact Jodie Miller, RN, at 803-533-7271 or by email at [millerjm@dhec.sc.gov](mailto:millerjm@dhec.sc.gov) prior to the assigned vaccination clinic date for your child's school:**

- If there are any significant changes in your child's health
- If you decide you no longer want your child to receive the flu vaccine at school
- If your child receives an antiviral medication 48 hours or less before the assigned vaccination clinic date for your child's school
- If your child receives any vaccine within 30 days prior to the assigned vaccination clinic date for your child's school

Sincerely,

Lou-Ann P. Carter, MS

Regional Health Director – SC DHEC Region 5

**SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL**

Region 5

Serving Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Calhoun and Orangeburg Counties

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